THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

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PRESS RELEASE
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THE HAND OF MAN: ART OF THE INDUSTRIAL AGE

March 31 - June 28, 1987

Paintings, prints, photographs, and sculptures by twenty-one artists express a variety of attitudes toward labor and industry in the exhibition The Hand of Man: Art of the Industrial Age, on view at The Cleveland Museum of Art through June 28.

At a time when the economy of Midwestern cities is shifting from labor-based heavy industries toward service and information industries, this exhibition recalls an earlier period of transition: when America and Europe went from agricultural to industrial economies. Works from the 1890s to the 1940s show how artists of that era viewed the dynamic industrial landscape and those who toiled in the mills and factories.

Four bronze sculptures by Cleveland-born Max Kalish are heroic monuments to the builders of our roads, bridges, and cities. Within the Furnaces, a 1916 lithograph by Joseph Pennell, presents a less optimistic view of industrialization. A 1932 tempera painting by Reginald Marsh and a 1923 etching by Edward Hopper show their fascination with America's railroad boom, while works by André Kertész and Constantin Meunier depict the industrial era in Europe.

Viewers may recognize scenes of Cleveland in photographs by Margaret Bourke-White, or in prints by Paul Kucharyson, Louis Rosenberg, and Rudolph Ruzicka. Cleveland School artists George Adomeit, Clarence Carter, Steven Dohanos, and Carl Gaertner are also represented in this exhibition. The Hand of Man was organized by William Robinson, Curatorial Assistant in the Department of Modern Art.